

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 21, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 9, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 50

Introduced by Assembly Member Garrick

(Principal coauthor: Senator Corbett)

April 7, 2011

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 50—Relative to Irish American Heritage Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 50, as amended, Garrick. Irish American Heritage Month.

This measure would designate March 2012 as Irish American Heritage Month in California, and call upon the people of the state to observe Irish American Heritage Month with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Millions of Irish people, faced with severe hardship
- 2 due to famine and poverty in their nation, immigrated to the United
- 3 States over the last several centuries in search of a more promising
- 4 future for themselves and their families; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Irish Americans initially suffered prejudice and
- 6 discrimination upon first arriving in the United States. As the years
- 7 went on, Irish Americans became very involved in the community
- 8 and made numerous contributions in all aspects of American
- 9 society and culture, especially in California; and

1 WHEREAS, Irish Americans played vital roles in the
2 development of the United States. Nine Irish Americans were
3 signers of the Declaration of Independence, and 19 Presidents of
4 the United States have been of Irish heritage, including John F.
5 Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton, and Barack Obama; and

6 WHEREAS, Many Irish Americans have played critical roles
7 in federal politics, including George Murphy, United States
8 Senator, and John Tunney, United States Senator; and

9 WHEREAS, Many people of Irish descent have contributed to
10 great movements that have helped to shape our country and its
11 role in the world, including Mother Jones, labor activist; Lucy
12 Burns, activist in the Women's Movement; and United States
13 Senator George Mitchell, negotiator of the Irish Peace Accord;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have ~~also~~ played a major role in
16 California politics. Many governors, legislative leaders, city
17 mayors, and other public officials who have shaped the
18 development of California over the years have been of Irish
19 descent; and

20 WHEREAS, Irish Americans were very involved in the
21 development of infrastructure throughout the United States,
22 especially in California. This included work on railroads and
23 bridges that connected the west to the east. The Irish were also
24 instrumental in the building of dams, roads, canals, and buildings
25 that expanded greatly in the late 1800s; and

26 WHEREAS, Many Irish Americans have made their mark in
27 the pursuit of public safety and have risked or lost their lives
28 carrying out their duties; and

29 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have served with distinction in
30 every war that this nation has fought. Many of the outstanding
31 soldiers who fought for American freedom in the Revolutionary
32 War were of Irish descent. Since then, Irish Americans have
33 sacrificed their lives in every war that the United States has fought;
34 and

35 WHEREAS, Many Irish Americans have contributed greatly to
36 the United States economy in business, including Henry Ford,
37 founder of the Ford Motor Company; Alexander Stewart, the
38 inventor of the American department store; Cathleen Black,
39 president of Hearst Publishing; Jack Welch, former president and

1 chief executive officer of General Electric; and Herb Kelleher,
2 cofounder of Southwest Airlines; and

3 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have contributed to the field of
4 science, including: Michael Collins, astronaut; Eileen Collins, first
5 female commander of a space shuttle; Charles Townes, physicist
6 and Nobel Laureate; and James Collins, bioengineer and
7 MacArthur Fellow; and

8 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have contributed to the American
9 literary tradition through great authors, including Flannery
10 O'Connor, Eugene O'Neill, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Mary McCarthy,
11 Tom Clancy, and Frank McCourt; and

12 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have contributed to American
13 entertainment through such stars as actors Jack Nicholson, John
14 Wayne, and George Clooney; actor and comedian Bill Murray;
15 actress Grace Kelly; actress and comedian Rosie O'Donnell; actor
16 and singer Bing Crosby; actress and singer Rosemary Clooney;
17 and actor and director Edward Burns; and

18 WHEREAS, Today, over 44 million Americans claim Irish
19 heritage, and they continue to contribute to the American and
20 California political, economic, and cultural landscapes; now,
21 therefore, be it

22 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
23 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature, in honor of the multitude
24 of contributions that Irish Americans have made to make this a
25 better country and state for all people, designates March 2012 to
26 be Irish American Heritage Month in California, and calls upon
27 the people of the state to observe Irish American Heritage Month
28 with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities, especially
29 on March 17, since everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day; and be
30 it further

31 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
32 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.